

21 The term "immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide" means an oligonucleotide that has been shown to activate the immune system. The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide may, preferably, comprise at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide. A "CpG motif" is a stretch of DNA comprising one or more CpG dinucleotides within a specified sequence. The oligonucleotide comprising the CpG motif may be as short as 4-40 base pairs in length. The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide containing the CpG motif may be a monomer or part of a multimer. Alternatively, the CpG motif may be a part of the sequence of a vector that also presents a DNA vaccine. It may be single-stranded or double-stranded. It may be prepared synthetically or produced in large scale in plasmids. One embodiment of the invention covers the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide which contains a CpG motif having the formula 5'X₁CGX₂3', wherein at least one nucleotide separates consecutive CpGs, and wherein X₁ is adenine, guanine, or thymine and X₂ is cytosine, thymine or adenine. In a preferred embodiment, the CpG motif comprises TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1; also known as "1758") or TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2; also known as "1826").

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18, 29-48, and 62 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 19, 24, 27, 28, 54, 58-61, 63, 65, 69, 71, 73, 75, 78-79 and add new claims 80-89 as follows:

19. An immune adjuvant composition comprising

- 22 (a) a saponin adjuvant; and
(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG motif,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is not a part of a DNA vaccine vector.

23 24. The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.